

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the final Office Action dated October 28, 2008, and is respectfully submitted to be fully responsive to the rejections raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits and allowance are respectfully requested.

In the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter recited in dependent claims 3 and 5. No new matter has been added.

Claim 5 has been indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment is respectfully submitted since the amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-11 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasajima, in view of Ito.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasajima, and Ito, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Takahashi (U.S. Patent Number 5,657,300).

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn in view of the amendments to the claims. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of claims 3 and 5, which further define the porous substrate. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest the

claimed sliding member. Claims 2, 4 and 6-11 depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the art for at least the reasons mentioned with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Nyeemah A. Grazier/

Nyeemah A. Grazier
Registration No. 63,657

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/265550

65565

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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